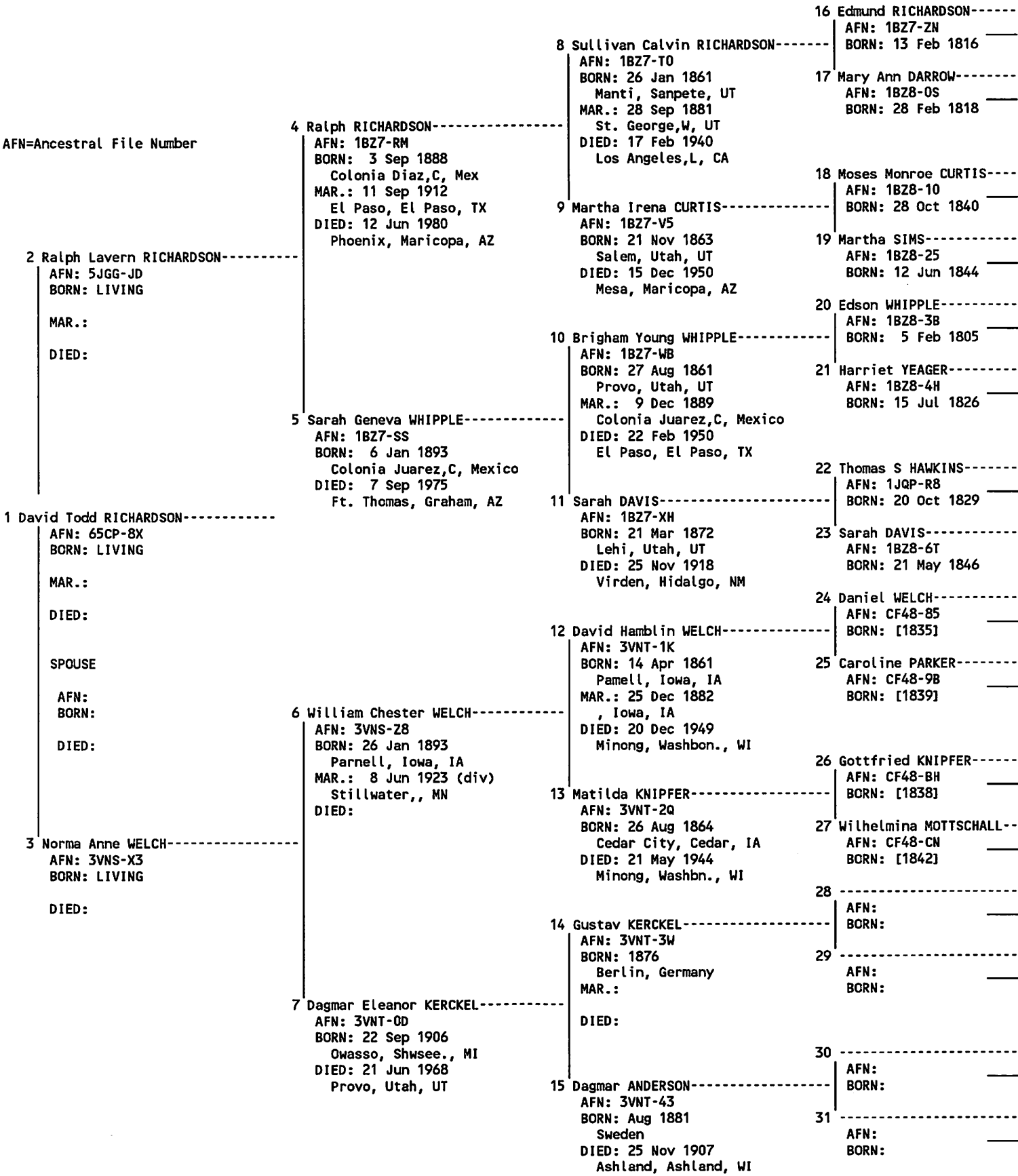


No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____

AFN=Ancestral File Number



hot or cold, without leaking elsewhere in the room your water supply is good. If you can flip a lever, pull a plug, and everything runs off the premises without leaving any trails, you have no sewer problems.

We all get somewhat attached to our homes. But reportedly, the average American moves at least every five years, so how attached can you be? It's hard to leave friends in the old neighborhood and the memories of five Christmases, a birthday or two, that will be less vivid in other surroundings. Other than that, we just move on, hopefully up, without many tears.

But some of us have landed in Wasatch County where there's a standing joke that has something to do with it being okay to miss with a guy's wife, but not his water, and where everybody has to be careful about what they do with their sewage to avoid tainting that precious water.

It's even more awakening to live here five or ten years and count up all the people we have met who are direct descendants of the original settlers in the County and often live on the same ground, maybe even in the same houses, as their forebears. It's a new experience for us who are city-bred, to sit with a randomly gathered group of locals and listen to them talk about having the same teachers, playing on the same high school ball teams, then about how the grandparents and great great grandparents share experiences in the same way. Most of us have changed states, many times, and couldn't tell you where the tops of our heads what cities our great grandparents lived in.

And never before moving into Wasatch County have we ever personally known a man to weep because he lost some ground. Most city dwellers who lose their land to progress, like highways, malls, parking lots, only want a fair price, take their money and set up housekeeping or business somewhere else, with few, if any, regrets.

Now many people in Wasatch County are losing their property to Jordanelle — to "progress." Others who are being allowed to keep their land are finding their property rights compromised. And the water supply to those lands is in question. Maybe it has to be so, to provide the most good for the most people, although that point can be argued. But it is being done in such a heartless manner! Gov'tment people are just saying we'll take this, and this, and a little that, so the water will continue to flow out of the tap in the city condos, so the trucks can keep moving, so those "hardworking" desk sitters can dance the handmade flies at the end of a string on a beautiful stream.

Although some are still fighting construction of the Jordanelle Dam, the odds are against their winning. Besides, the ground has already been taken and desecrated. But it was yanked, when it should have been gently eased away. Big city, gov'tment officials show no compassion for the victims, for those families who are losing lands that are cherished family heirlooms. Instead, they act as though what they are taking are just stretches of dirt and foliage that the owners should be glad to get the going for, and water that is wanted by more important people.

Our only point is this: Those of us who have lived here long enough to learn about the real world where water is precious and appreciated, and land represents heritage and the toil of generations, feel very deeply for those who are coldly being shoved aside in the name of progress, even though we have no personal experiences that would allow us to truly identify with such losses. That's not worth much, but we hope it will help a little.